

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 931  
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Joseph Abella  
Coakley of Gallatin.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Mr. Joseph A. Coakley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coakley was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to his profession, community and family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coakley was born in Memphis the son of Mary Lewis Coakley; his proud adoptive father was William Drummond Alde; and

WHEREAS, in 1948 he enrolled at Spring Hill College of Mobile, Alabama, the third oldest Catholic College in the country; and

WHEREAS, Joe was active in numerous academic and extracurricular activities at Spring Hill, earning the Economics Medal for the Best Thesis on Economics, along with the Medal for Outstanding Work on the school paper, *The Springhillian*; he has also contributed his time and numerous talents as a member of the Sigma Alpha Kappa Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coakley graduated magna cum laude from Spring Hill in 1951, having been listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*; and

WHEREAS, ever mindful of his patriotic duty to God and country, Joe Coakley joined the Mobile Naval Reserve Division during his time at Spring Hill College, and was sent to serve in Panama; and

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WHEREAS, a year before graduating, he married the lovely Jeanne K. Morrissey, and together this glorious union produced five children, including Regina, Catherine, William, Anne and Jeannette; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful employee of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Insurance Company, his family lived in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Nashville where he served with acumen as Chairman of the Americanism Committee of the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Mr. Coakley was named Vice-President of the Crescent Manufacturing Company of Gallatin, where he was widely respected and admired by his employees and peers alike; and

WHEREAS, his beloved Jeanne preceded him in death in 1989; he later married Joan Green of Gallatin, and together they spent six wonderful years together; and

WHEREAS, his affinity for wine, love of travel, and his choice of khaki pants, blue shirts and red and blue bandanas was legendary; Joe Coakley was known as a good husband, father, teacher and friend; and

WHEREAS, he evinced his devout religious faith as a member of the St. John Vienni Catholic Church in Gallatin, where he attended mass daily; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a man of Joseph Coakley's stature walks among us; and the legacy he leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, he was the adoring grandfather of seventeen loving grandchildren: Charles, Leslie, Matthew, Emily, Nicole, Allison, Michelle, Maggie, Marie, Christina, Martha, Michael, Robert, Abigail, Julia, Joseph and William; and

WHEREAS, he was also the proud grandparent of five grandchildren with Joan: Anderson, Kendall, Callie, Dax and Lee; and father-in-law to L.A. and Calvert; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Joseph Abella Coakley, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and many selfless contributions to his family and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Coakley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.